(g) whether Government propose to give some justice to these employees for encouragement of their morale; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d) The existing Govt. orders provide that if the absence is due to failure of transport facilities, Special Casual Leave may be granted to a Government servant, coming to office from a distance of more than 3 miles (5 kms). If the absence is due to picketing disturbances or curfew, Special Casual Leave may be granted without insisting on the condition that the distance between the place of duty and residence is more than 3 miles. Grant of Special Casual Leave to a Govt. servant is to be considered by the appropriate competent authority in individual cases in different Ministries/Departments in the light of these orders.

(e) to (h) Since every Govt. servant is to use all reasonable means at his disposal to attend office, no instructions are considered necessary for granting any Special Casual Leave or monetary benefit to the Government servants who attended office on 25.02.1993. This cannot be said to result in any injustice or lowering of morale of such Government servants.

1495. (Transferred to 13th August, 1993).

1496. (Transferred to 13th August, 1993).

Reservation to handicapped persons

1497. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court, in the recent judgement has recommended to Government to decide the question of providing preference/ reservation to the handicapped persons in Group 'A' posts as expeditiously as possible;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what decision Government have so far taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) A proposal to provide reservation for the physically Handicapped in Group A and Group B posts under the Central Government is under consideration.

Deputation of Group 'A' officers

1498. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dopt guidelines allow deputation of officers of group 'A' from one Ministry/Department to another; and

(b) if so, whether the Dopt will make special efforts to send officers from other Ministries/Central Pool etc. on deputation against vacant posts in the Central Passport Organisation in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Vacancies of Group A posts in a Ministry can be filled by deputation if the relevant recruitment rules issued by the concerned Ministry provsde for appointment by deputation.

(b) Ministry of External Affairs as the administrative Ministry is competent to fill up the posts in Central Passport Organisation in accordance with recruitment rules notified by them.

Agreement on agricultural development

@1499. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that more than 90,000 rural people in Maharashtra are expected to get benefit from the US dollar 29.2 million as per the loan agreement signed between India and International Fund for agricultural Development;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the agreement;

(c) the areas in that State which is likely to be benefited by this agreement;

(d) whether the creation of self-help scheme aims at helping the people living below the poverty line in rural areas; and

(e) what is the total amount of loan expected to be utilised by those people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAM BHAI B. PATEAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Main terms and conditions of the agreement are:

(i) United Nations Development Programme/Office of the Project Services will be appointed as the Cooperating Institution.

(ii) A service charge @ 1 per cnt per annum on the amount of the loan withdrawn and outstanding from time to time shall be paid to the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

(iii) The principal amount of loan shall be paid in 80 equal semi-annual instalments starting from 1st July, 2003 in U.S. Dollars.

(iv) Closing date of the loan will be 30th September, 2000 or any other later date as notified by International Fund for Agricultural Development.

(v) The proceeds of the loan will be made available to Government of Maharashtra and NABARD for carrying out the project, NABARD shall make the proceeds of the loan available to the participating banks under a refinancing agreement.

(vi) Arrangements will be established for monitoring the progress of the project and ongoing evaluation of the effects of the project.

(vii) Appropriate measures may be taken to achieve the objective of reaching positive interest rates over time.

(viii) The participating banks shall minimise their costs in extending the credit to the borrowers.

(ix) The Project Steering Committee and the District Project-Co-ordinating Committee in the Project Area will be established.

(c) The project will commence in the four districts of Yavatmal, Chandrapur, Nanded and Pune in the first year. After mid-term review/Evaluation, expension of the project area to more districts will be decided.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A total amount of U.S. Dollars 1,355,200 is proposed to be provided as loans to self-help groups.

Unauthorised occupation of Gram Sabha Land

1500. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land of Gram Sabha Bathain Kalan Tehsil Chhata, District Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, has been occupied by some persons unauthorisedly;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take for vacation of Gram Sabha land;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said land which is to be allotted to

@Previously Unstarred Question 1543, transferred from 30th July, 1993.